



News Release

Arizona Department of Public Safety

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DPS and the Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force receive prestigious awards from The International Association of Chiefs of Police

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the world's oldest and most respected group of law enforcement executives, presented the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force (AVTTF) with two of its most sought-after and prestigious awards for law enforcement excellence on October, 17, 2006, at its 113th Annual IACP Conference in Boston, Massachusetts.

Several representatives from DPS, including agency Deputy Director David A. Felix, accepted the awards on behalf of the Department and the AVTTF at the conference which was attended by more than 14,000 law enforcement professionals from throughout the country.

The award given to DPS by the IACP in Boston recognized the agency as the first place winner in the mid-sized "state police/highway patrol category" of the 2005 National Law Enforcement Challenge.

The National Law Enforcement Challenge, operated by the IACP in partnership with the National Sheriffs Association, is a national highway safety competition developed under a grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) that is designed to encourage departments to step up enforcement in the target

areas of impaired driving, occupant protection, and speed enforcement.

DPS was ultimately selected for the first place award among dozens of other agencies in their highly competitive category after a judging panel in Washington D.C. comprised of law enforcement representatives and traffic safety professionals determined that the agency had “gone above and beyond” in regards to improving traffic safety within its jurisdiction.

The presentation of this award to DPS marked the third year in a row that the state law enforcement agency has been recognized by the IACP as one of the very best in the country when it comes to improving and promoting traffic safety.

To be considered for this impressive honor, DPS had to submit a lengthy, illustrated award application to the IACP earlier this year.

DPS’ application, like those submitted by other law enforcement agencies in the competition, listed, in detail, the traffic safety efforts the agency and its dedicated officers had put forth during 2005. The application showed, through a variety of documentation, how such efforts were effective and ultimately led to a reduction in motor vehicle crashes, injuries and fatalities on Arizona’s highways.

The applications were judged by IACP officials on six essential categories with emphasis placed on how an agency’s work within each category has improved traffic safety. The six categories were: Agency Policy Statements, Officer Training, Public Information and Education Campaigns, Enforcement Activity, Program Effectiveness, and Quality of Application Documents.

The second award presented to DPS by officials from the IACP in Boston was the 2006 Vehicle Theft Award of Merit. DPS accepted this award from the IACP on behalf of the Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force (AVTTF), a multi-agency law enforcement unit managed from within DPS’ Criminal Investigations Division.

The AVTTF, which is comprised of detectives from DPS and 16 other law enforcement agencies in Arizona, received the honor from the IACP for demonstrating unparalleled excellence in its auto theft prevention and enforcement programs during 2005.

Among a variety of other accomplishments, the task force was recognized for recovering about 3,000 stolen vehicles in 2005 valued at nearly \$30 million. In addition, the task force was also recognized for the success of its public awareness activities, education events, and community partnerships that were developed to reduce vehicle theft and other vehicle-related crimes in Arizona.

To request electronic PDF copies of the actual applications that DPS and the Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force submitted to the IACP to receive these awards, please send an e-mail to pio@azdps.gov